

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 26, 2005. Claims 1-39 were pending, with claims 9-13, 22-26 and 35-39 having been withdrawn by the USPTO from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 2, 4-6, 9-13, 15, 17-19, 22-26, 28, 30-32 and 35-39 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 7, 8, 20, 21, 33 and 34 have been amended by rewriting them into independent form, claims 3, 16 and 29 have been amended to depend from independent claims 1, 14 and 27, respectively, and claims 1, 14 and 27 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 14, 16, 20, 21, 27, 29, 33 and 34 are now pending, with claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 20, 21, 27, 33 and 34 being in independent form.

The drawings were objected to as having informalities.

A replacement sheet of drawings for Figures 1 and 2 is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. In the replacement sheet of drawings, Figure 1 is labeled as "PRIOR ART".

Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 14-16 and 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,327,453 to Imaizumi et al. Claims 4, 5, 17, 18, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Imaizumi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,832,060 to Tanaka et al. Claims 6, 19 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Imaizumi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,310,681 to Taniwaki et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 14, and 27 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to correction for color drift in a color image forming device.

More specifically, the application provides for controlled timing for starting color-drift correction.

For example, independent claim 1 is directed to a color-image forming device comprising a color-image forming unit, an automatic color-drift correction unit, a color-drift correction execution interval setting unit and a color-drift correction execution time setting unit. The color-image forming unit forms a color image by superimposing a plurality of images corresponding to a plurality of colors onto a recording medium. The automatic color-drift correction unit executes correction of color drift generated during the superimposition of the images. The color-drift correction execution interval setting unit variably sets color-drift correction execution intervals, at which the automatic color-drift correction executes the color-drift correction. The color-drift correction execution time setting unit sets a color-drift correction execution time, at which the automatic color-drift correction starts the color-drift correction. With this feature, the automatic color-drift correction can be set to be performed at times at which the color-image forming device is rarely used (for example, prior to the start of each workday).

Imaizumi, as understood by Applicant, is directed to registration correction to correct dislocation of images formed in a color image forming apparatus. The color image forming apparatus of Imaizumi includes a registration pattern detecting unit for detecting registration patterns in the images and a calculating unit which determines registration correction values for correcting deviance of the images. Imaizumi teaches that the registration correction value update process is performed at predetermined intervals.

However, Applicant does not find disclosure or suggestion in Imaizumi, however, of setting a color-drift correction execution time, at which automatic color-drift correction starts the color-drift correction, as provided by amended claim 1.

Tanaka, as understood by Applicant, is directed to registration correction for an image forming apparatus which uses a transfer medium on which is laid plural toner images of respective component colors, and the composite image formed on the transfer medium is transferred from the transfer medium to a sheet of paper. Tanaka was cited in the Office Action as purportedly disclosing a registration correction unit which includes a manual color-drift correction unit which allows a user to set the accuracy of registration correction.

Taniwaki, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a photocopying apparatus wherein an image to be photocopied is scanned at a timing synchronized with a pixel clock, and the pixel clock frequency is adjusted according to magnification of the image to be reproduced. Taniwaki was cited in the Office Action as purportedly disclosing performing color misregistration correction periodically.

Applicant does not find disclosure or suggestion in any of the cited references, however, of setting a color-drift correction execution time, at which automatic color-drift correction starts the color-drift correction, as provided by amended claim 1.

Independent claims 14 and 27 are patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 14 and 27, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

The Office Action indicates that claims 7, 8, 20, 21, 33 and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claims 7, 8, 20, 21, 33 and 34 have been amended by rewriting them

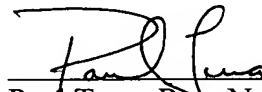
into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Amendments to the Drawings**

In the replacement sheet of drawings attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, Figure 1 is labeled as  
“PRIOR ART”.

Attachment: replacement sheet of drawings for Figure 1